

HOUSE BILL No. 1979

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-12-74.

Synopsis: LIFE scholarship program. Establishes the Indiana lifelong learning incentive for excellence (LIFE) scholarship program to provide scholarships to Indiana residents for postsecondary education. Provides for administration of the program by the state student assistance commission. Sets forth the amount of a scholarship award, subject to appropriations of the general assembly. Provides eligibility criteria for potential recipients to meet.

Effective: July 1, 1999.

Klinker, Buell, Kersey, Cochran

January 26, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.



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First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1998 General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1979

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-74 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 1999]:
4 **Chapter 74. Indiana Lifelong Learning Incentive for Excellence**
5 **(LIFE) Scholarship**
6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "academic year" means a period**
7 **of time, typically nine (9) months, in which a full-time student is**
8 **expected to complete the equivalent of at least two (2) semesters or**
9 **three (3) quarters of academic work.**
10 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible high school" means a**
11 **secondary school located in Indiana that is a:**
12 **(1) public school; or**
13 **(2) nonpublic school that voluntarily seeks and receives**
14 **accreditation as authorized by IC 20-1-1-6(a)(5).**
15 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "eligible postsecondary**
16 **institution" means a school that:**
17 **(1) operates in Indiana;**



(2) is operated by the state, not for profit, or for profit.

(3) provides an organized program of postsecondary education leading to a technical certificate, nursing diploma, associate degree, or baccalaureate degree; and

(4) is accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting agency, the Indiana commission on proprietary education, or the Indiana state board of nursing.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "freshman student" means a student at a postsecondary institution who has attempted less than forty-six (46) quarter hours or less than thirty-one (31) semester hours.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "full-time student" means a matriculated student attending a postsecondary educational institution and enrolled for the equivalent of at least twelve (12) quarter or semester hours.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "grade point average" means the numbered grade average calculated using a 4.0 scale or the equivalent.

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "junior student" means a student at a postsecondary institution who has attempted at least ninety-one (91) quarter hours but less than one hundred thirty-six (136) quarter hours or at least sixty-one (61) semester hours but less than ninety-one (91) semester hours.

Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "LIFE scholarship" means a lifelong learning incentive for excellence scholarship for postsecondary education awarded under this chapter.

Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "matriculated status" means being recognized as a student in a defined program of study leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate at a postsecondary institution.

Sec. 10. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the LIFE scholarship program.

Sec. 11. As used in this chapter, "quarter hours" includes each quarter hour attempted, whether remedial or for credit toward a degree. However, the term does not include a quarter hour attempted or completed before graduating from high school or earning a general educational development (GED) equivalency diploma.

Sec. 12. As used in this chapter, "semester hours" includes each semester hour attempted, whether remedial or for credit toward a degree. However, the term does not include a semester hour attempted before graduating from high school or earning a general

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educational development (GED) equivalency diploma.

Sec. 13. As used in this chapter, "senior student" means a student at a postsecondary institution who has attempted at least one hundred thirty-six (136) quarter hours but less than one hundred ninety-one (191) quarter hours or at least ninety-one (91) semester hours but less than one hundred twenty-eight (128) semester hours.

Sec. 14. As used in this chapter, "sophomore student" means a student at a postsecondary institution who has attempted at least forty-six (46) quarter hours but less than ninety-one (91) quarter hours or at least thirty-one (31) semester hours but less than sixty-one (61) semester hours.

Sec. 15. As used in this chapter, "Title IV" means Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C.A. Sec. 1070, et seq.

Sec. 16. The lifelong learning incentive for excellence (LIFE) scholarship program is established.

Sec. 17. The state student assistance commission established by IC 20-12-21-4 shall do the following:

- (1) Administer the program.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this chapter, determine eligibility, residency, policy issues, and definitions for the program.
- (3) Identify individuals who are eligible to participate in the program.
- (4) Pay a student's scholarship amount directly to the eligible postsecondary institution that a scholarship recipient attends.
- (5) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly for LIFE scholarships and to the requirements of this chapter, determine the scholarship amount for each scholarship recipient.
- (6) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to administer the program.

Sec. 18. Subject to the amount appropriated by the general assembly for purposes of this chapter, the commission shall provide a LIFE scholarship to eligible students in the following amounts:

- (1) For a student who attends an eligible postsecondary institution that is a public institution operated by the state, an amount that equals the sum of the following:
 - (A) The student's actual tuition.
 - (B) The student's actual approved mandatory fees that are charged by the student's postsecondary institution to every



student enrolled in the institution, regardless of a student's program of study.

(C) A book allowance not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per quarter or one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per semester.

(2) For a student who attends an eligible postsecondary institution that operates as a nonprofit private institution, not less than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for tuition and fees for any academic year.

(3) For a student who attends an eligible postsecondary institution that operates as a for-profit private proprietary institution, not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for tuition and fees for any academic year.

Sec. 19. In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, a student must meet the following requirements to be eligible to receive a LIFE scholarship under this chapter:

(1) Be a United States citizen or a permanent resident alien of the United States who meets the definition of an eligible noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements.

(2) Be a legal resident of Indiana as determined by the commission.

(3) Comply with United States Selective Service System requirements for registration, if such requirements are applicable to the student.

(4) Not be in default on a federal Title IV educational loan or a state of Indiana educational loan. However, a student who is otherwise eligible and who fully repays a defaulted loan is eligible to obtain a scholarship or grant for future academic terms, but not retroactively.

(5) Not owe a refund on a federal Title IV student financial aid program or an Indiana student financial aid program. However, a student who is otherwise eligible and who fully repays an owed refund is eligible to obtain a scholarship or grant for future academic terms, but not retroactively.

(6) Not be convicted of a felony offense involving marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug. Ineligibility under this subdivision extends from the date of conviction to the completion of the next academic term following the date of conviction.

(7) Not be incarcerated.

(8) Meet each qualification in this chapter relating to the relevant scholarship applicable to the student.



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1 **Sec. 20. To be eligible for a LIFE scholarship, an entering**
 2 **freshman student seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree at**
 3 **an eligible postsecondary institution must meet the following**
 4 **requirements:**

5 **(1) Meet achievement standards by doing one (1) of the**
 6 **following:**

7 **(A) Graduating from an eligible high school.**

8 **(B) Receiving an Indiana general educational development**
 9 **(GED) diploma.**

10 **(C) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least**
 11 **3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the**
 12 **quarter or semester in which the student has attempted**
 13 **forty-five (45) quarter hours or thirty (30) semester hours**
 14 **and completing a homebased instruction program that a**
 15 **parent establishes, organizes, and directs for the education**
 16 **of the parent's child and excuses the child from**
 17 **compulsory school attendance under IC 20-8.1-3-34.**
 18 **However, a student described in this clause is eligible only**
 19 **to receive a retroactive LIFE scholarship for the student's**
 20 **freshman year to be paid directly to the student's parent at**
 21 **the end of the student's freshman year.**

22 **(D) Graduating from a high school that is not an eligible**
 23 **high school and earning a cumulative grade point average**
 24 **of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the**
 25 **end of the quarter or semester in which the student has**
 26 **attempted forty-five (45) quarter hours or thirty (30)**
 27 **semester hours. However, a student described in this clause**
 28 **is eligible only to receive a retroactive LIFE scholarship**
 29 **for the student's freshman year to be paid to the student's**
 30 **parent at the end of the student's freshman year.**

31 **(2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled,**
 32 **and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated**
 33 **status.**

34 **Sec. 21. To be eligible for a LIFE scholarship, a sophomore**
 35 **student seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible**
 36 **postsecondary institution must do the following:**

37 **(1) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following**
 38 **criteria:**

39 **(A) Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0**
 40 **or the equivalent at a postsecondary institution at the end**
 41 **of the quarter or semester in which the student has**
 42 **attempted forty-five (45) quarter hours or thirty (30)**



semester hours.

(B) Maintain satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

(2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is classified as a professional level student rather than an undergraduate student, being accepted into the professional level program of study before receiving a baccalaureate degree.

Sec. 22. To be eligible for a LIFE scholarship, a junior student seeking a baccalaureate degree at a postsecondary institution must do the following:

(1) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following criteria:

(A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 or the equivalent at a postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted ninety (90) quarter hours or sixty (60) semester hours.

(B) Maintain satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

(2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is classified as a professional level student rather than an undergraduate student, being accepted into the professional level program of study before receiving a baccalaureate degree.

Sec. 23. To be eligible for a LIFE scholarship, a senior student seeking a baccalaureate degree at a postsecondary institution must do the following:

(1) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following criteria:

(A) Meeting all achievement standards for LIFE eligibility in the student's junior year.

(B) Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 or the equivalent at a postsecondary institution at the end



of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted one hundred thirty-five (135) quarter hours or ninety (90) semester hours.

(C) Maintain satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

(2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is classified as a professional level student rather than an undergraduate student, being accepted into the professional level program of study before receiving a baccalaureate degree.

Sec. 24. For a student eligible for a LIFE scholarship under this chapter, no minimum number of hours of enrollment is required. However, the commission may adjust the amount of the scholarship to reflect the number of hours of enrollment.

Sec. 25. A student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 or the equivalent at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted forty-five (45) quarter hours or thirty (30) semester hours but who regains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted ninety (90) quarter hours or sixty (60) semester hours and who is otherwise eligible may requalify for a LIFE scholarship.

Sec. 26. A student may receive a LIFE scholarship until the first of the following events occurs:

- (1) The student earns a baccalaureate degree.
- (2) The student attempts at any postsecondary institution a total of one hundred ninety (190) quarter hours or one hundred twenty-seven (127) semester hours.

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